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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHILIPPINE WOMAN INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY AND OPERATING
AN UNLICENSED MONEY TRANSMITTING BUSINESS ON CRUISE SHIP**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a federal Grand Jury returned a seven count indictment charging Chuchi Kue, 43, of Malate, Philippines, with conspiring to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business and with six other counts for operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. Ms. Kue was arrested in her cabin while working on the Dawn Princess cruise ship which was then docked on St. Thomas on December 9, 2004. Approximately \$ 20, 392.00 in cash was found in her cabin at the time of her arrest.

The indictment charges that between January 2000 and December 9, 2004, Ms. Kue conspired with others to illegally operate an unlicensed money transmitting business by collecting money from others to be transmitted through foreign commerce. After the money was collected, Ms. Kue and others acting with her, used banks, and money remitting services, to transmit their customers money to the Philippines when the cruise ships she worked on docked in Alaska, Florida and here in St. Thomas.

The indictment further alleges that during the approximate twelve month period between January 1, 2004 and December 9, 2004, she and her coconspirators transmitted approximately \$160,000.00 from these locations to the Philippines.

If convicted, Ms. Kue faces a term of imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of up to \$250,000.00 and three years of supervised release for each count. However, Attorney Jenkins emphasized that the indictment is merely a formal charge and that the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

Attorney Jenkins advised that prior to operating a money transmitting business the operator must check state licensing requirements and also register the business as required by Title 31, United States Code, Section 5330.

Acting U.S. Attorney Jenkins praised the cooperative efforts of the Dawn Princess personnel, and he thanked Roberto Medina, Special Agent In Charge, United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and his St. Thomas staff for their hard work in successfully investigating and bringing this case to fruition.